GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4669
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Handling of Air Cargo at Airports
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Air Cargo handled at various airports of the country including the volume and revenue earned by the Government during the last three years and the current year, airport/year-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the dwelling time including the cumbersome handling and paper work at Air Cargo terminals in the country;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to modernize the air cargo terminals including infrastructure of automatic handling of Air Cargo in the country; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to handle the hazardous cargo at airports in the country?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) The details of the Air Cargo handled by 38 main Airports Authority of India (AAI) manged airports and the revenue earned by Government from these airports in last three years and current financial year, as provided by AAI is at Annexure-I.;
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(b) The following steps have been taken by the Govt. in reducing the dwell time at Air Cargo Terminals:-

(i) Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has got the Dwell-Time study conducted at six major airports in the recent past to identify the reasons for higher dwell time in Indian Airports and corrective action(s) required. Accordingly, MoCA specified target to achieve desired result in reducing Dwell Time at all Airports in India during 2016-17, 2017-18 in the NCAP-2016.

(ii) The concept of 24x7customs clearance of Import/Export Cargo has been initiated at 13 airports.;

(iii) The concept of "Single Window" has been launched by Customs w.e.f. 1.4.2016 in phased manner which inter-alia ensures on-line clearance from various regulatory agencies.

(iv) Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has introduced on arrival delivery concept extending 15 days credit for payment of custom duty to various accredited importers to facilitate faster clearance.

(v)The e-filing of customs documents and exchange of Electronic Data Message (EDI) has accelerated the faster & flawless processing and clearance of cargo.;
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(c) The steps taken to upgrade the air cargo terminals are as under: ;

(i) For handling International Cargo at its airports, AAI has provided Automatic Storage & Retrieval System (AS&RS) as well as Elevated Transfer Vehicle (ETV) facilities for handling both import and export cargo respectively at Chennai & Kolkata Airports.;

(ii) All the International Air Cargo Terminal managed by AAI are well equipped with sufficient storage space, cargo handling equipment, cold rooms for perishable cargo and other basic facilities.;

(iii)The Common User Domestic Cargo Terminal (CUDCT) concept has been introduced for maximum utilization of facilities.;

(iv) It has been decided to upgrade the existing Integrated Cargo Management System (ICMS) of cargo IT to cater to all the requirements of international as well as domestic cargo operations.

(v)The cargo infrastructure at AAI managed airports at present can cater the annual projected Cargo growth upto the financial year 2020-21.;
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(d) & (e): The following measures taken by the Government to handle the hazardous cargo at airports in the country:-;

(i) The safe handling of hazardous cargo at airport is ensured by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) by appointing Dangerous Goods training institutes which imparts training to the cargo handling personnel and supervising officials. DGCA also has an audit team to visit airport for random checking of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) stipulated Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) compliance for Cargo Operators for hazardous cargo besides framing requisite guidelines Civil Aviation Regulation (CAR) and updating the same for time to time. International Airlines are also carrying out periodical audit including implementation of DG safety regulations at all airports in coordination with Cargo Terminal Operators.

(ii) All International Air Cargo Terminals have segregated/ Exclusive hazardous cargo storage area separately from Export & Import general cargo.

(iii) AAI Airlines & Ground Handling Agencies are having DGR qualified personnel for handling/supervising movement of Hazardous Cargo in the respective airports.

(iv) Further, the uncleared/unclaimed material Hazardous Cargo are disposed off through destruction on periodical basis by the Air Cargo Terminal operators in coordination with local Pollution Control Board.

(v) The DGCA also updates/reviews that Hazardous Cargo Handling procedures from time to time to deal with the new situations.